



# Virginia Aviation

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## African American Aviation Pioneer Chauncey E. Spencer, Sr. Virginia Historical Highway Marker Unveiling

On Saturday, November 6, 2004, the Chauncey E. Spencer, Sr. Virginia historical highway marker was unveiled at 1306 Pierce Street in Lynchburg, Virginia. The friends and family of Chauncey E. Spencer, Sr. sponsored the event for this African American aviation pioneer.

Chauncey Spencer's role as an aviation pioneer has been featured in the "Black Wings" exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution and as a cover story in the Washington Post Magazine last year. He is also a member of the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame.

The marker provides a brief biography of Lynchburg native Chauncey E. Spencer, Sr. the son of renowned Harlem renaissance poet Anne Spencer. Chauncey E. Spencer, Sr. was born in Lynchburg on November 5, 1906. As a charter member of the National Airmen's Association of America, he and Dale L. White in 1939 made an aeronautical tour from Chicago to Washington, D.C., to lobby for the inclusion of African Americans in the Army Air (see [Spencer](#) cont. on pg. 2)



The Chauncey E. Spencer, Sr. Virginia historical highway marker was unveiled at 1306 Pierce St. in Lynchburg, Virginia.

## NASA Test Pilot, Two World War II Pilots and Airport Owner Join the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame at the Virginia Aviation Museum

G. Warren Hall flies cutting edge test aircraft for NASA. Eugene Sweeney is a World War II Berlin Airlift pilot. John Bennett Newell is a World War II P-47 pilot. Billy Toombs is co-owner of Fredericksburg's Shannon Airport. Their achievements were honored and their stories were told when these aviators were inducted into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame at the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society's Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame Induction Dinner recently at the Virginia Aviation Museum.

Hall is at the forefront of next generation aircraft flight. He is a test pilot and has flown more than 65 different aircraft. He has worked with new military aircraft like the F-16, vertical take-off aircraft

(see [VAHF](#) cont. on pg. 4)

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(Spencer cont. from pg. 1)

Corps. This included meeting Senator Harry S Truman.

The Board of Historic Resources approved the Chauncey E. Spencer,



Sr. marker at its June 16, 2004, board meeting. The friends and family of Spencer sponsored the sign and the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society and the Virginia Department of Aviation also greatly aided in the project.

The City of Lynchburg and the Virginia Department of Transportation assisted in erecting the sign at 1306 Pierce Street, the home of Chauncey Spencer from the late 1970s until his death in 2002. Spencer returned to Lynchburg to aid in preserving his childhood home (The historic Anne Spencer House at 1313 Pierce Street) in the late 1970s, after having a distinguished career working for the U.S. Air Force and as a public servant in Michigan and California.

For more than 75 years the highway marker program has documented events of state and national significance, making it one of the oldest programs in the nation. Cur-

rently there are more than 2,100 official state markers. The inscriptions on the markers explain historic sites, events, and people that are important to the history of Virginia.

A Guidebook to Virginia's Historical Markers, compiled by John S. Salmon, is an excellent reference tool to locate state highway markers when traveling the Commonwealth's roadways. Copies of the book are available at

bookstores and museums throughout Virginia, or can be ordered from the University of Virginia Press.

Funds for new markers come from private organizations, individuals, and local jurisdictions. This year, the department hopes to replace close to 20 markers that are missing, damaged, or need to be updated through federal TEA-21 funding awarded by the Virginia Transportation Board.

More information about the Historical Highway Marker Program is available on the Virginia Department of Historic Resources' Web site at [www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov).



Spencer family members and members of the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society.

## Virginia Aviation Events

**February 15, 2005 Virginia Aviation Board Workshop** will be held beginning at 3:00 p.m. in Virginia Beach, location TBA. No formal actions by the Board will be taken at any of the above workshops. Workshops will be held unless otherwise notified. All formal actions will take place during regular meetings. For additional information contact Carolyn Toth, Administrative Assistant, (804) 236-3637, or visit [www.doav.virginia.gov](http://www.doav.virginia.gov).

**February 16, 2005 Virginia Aviation Board Meeting** will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Virginia Beach, location TBA. For additional information contact Carolyn Toth, Administrative Assistant, at (804) 236-3637, or visit [www.doav.virginia.gov](http://www.doav.virginia.gov).

**March 12, 2005 Ultralight Safety Seminar** will be held at the Virginia Aviation Museum.

Submit upcoming event information to :  
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e-mail: [seth.dye@doav.virginia.gov](mailto:seth.dye@doav.virginia.gov)

## Aviation career day held at RIC

The 19th Annual Rotary Aviation Career Day was held recently at the Richmond Jet Center at Richmond International Airport. The Rotary Clubs of Sandston, Mechanicsville, Henrico East, and New Kent sponsored the event with cooperation and support from the Federal Aviation Administration, Virginia Department of Aviation and Virginia Aviation Museum. The event consists of presentations, facility and operations tours, aircraft static displays, aviation

(see **Career** cont. on pg. 3)



# Lockheed Martin Announces Major Contribution to Virginia Air & Space Center

Lockheed Martin Corporation recently presented a \$100,000 check representing a pledge of support for the Virginia Air & Space Center's new *Adventures in Flight* gallery and Space Gallery opening in 2007.

Ken Reightler, president of Lockheed Martin Space Operations and former NASA astronaut, presented the donation and said the Center's work supported the renewed spirit for space exploration and its links to education. "NASA's new vision for space exploration will inspire the next generation of explorers," Reightler said. "The excitement and rewards of new discoveries in space encourage students to study math and science, and hopefully seek careers in the fields of engineering and technology."

Robert H. Trice, senior vice president of corporate business development for Lockheed Martin, praised VASC's role in the Hampton Roads community and noted that the center also displays a mock-up of the U.S. Air Force's F/A-22 Raptor, the most revolutionary multi-role fighter aircraft in the world, which is scheduled for initial operational capability with the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley Air Force Base in late 2005.

"The Virginia Air & Space Center

does excellent work in showcasing the many contributions of Langley Air Force Base and NASA Langley Research Center," Trice said. "The Center also is strongly committed to conducting educational programs that stimulate the interest of children in math and science, which will contribute to forming future generations of engineers, scientists, astronauts and pilots. We are proud to be associated with the Virginia Air & Space Center, and hope that our contribution will help them continue the work that has made them such an important and appreciated part of the Hampton Roads community."

Fred Richardson, director and Hampton office manager for Lockheed Martin Corporation, serves on the Virginia Air & Space Center's Board of Directors.

The Virginia Air & Space Center is the visitor center for NASA Langley Research Center and Langley Air Force Base.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin employs about

130,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture and integration of advanced technology systems, products and services. The corporation reported 2003 sales of \$31.8 billion.



Lockheed Martin presents a \$100,000 check to the Virginia Air & Space Center (VASC). From left to right: Fred Richardson, director and Hampton office manager for Lockheed Martin, James Chisman, President, VASC Board of Directors, Larry Hungerford, Vice President, Domestic Business Development for Lockheed Martin, Ken Reightler, Director of Space Operations for Lockheed Martin, Todd Bridgford, Executive Director/CEO, VASC, and Kim Hinson, Deputy Director, VASC.

(**Career** cont. from pg. 2)

equipment and information displays.

Aircraft, aviation equipment, and aviation career information were on static displays. Video productions, which provide the students with an insight into aviation careers, were seen throughout the event. Approximately 200 aviation-oriented high school students and 30 counselors were in attendance from 30 area high schools. The objective of Rotary Aviation Career Day is to assist these students

in choosing an aviation career and to provide the counselors with information, which will be helpful in aviation career counseling. Approximately 3,500 students and counselors have previously benefited from this project.



(VAHF cont. from pg. 1)

such as the X-22A and X-14B, and helicopters including the UH-60 Blackhawk. Hall started flying when he was 15. After college he joined the Navy and flew F3B Demon and F-4B



Van Crosby places VAHF pin on G. Warren Hall. Phantom II fighters, logging more than 300 carrier landings. He served in both the Navy and Air Force Reserves. Hall retired from military service after 28 years. The retired colonel's last position was commander of an Air National Guard Rescue and Recovery Group. Hall is currently assistant director for aviation at NASA Ames Research Center. He holds a bachelor in aeronautical engineering from the University of Virginia. He also holds a master in aerospace engineering and a master in business administration from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Hall has taught aeronautical courses at the University of Southern California and San Jose University. He is a Fellow in the Society of Experimental Pilots. Hall is a Richmond native.

During World War II Newell flew 16 combat missions against the Japanese. During the Korean War Newell served as a flight instructor. While under Newell's instruction, not



Al Orgain presents John Bennett Newell with his VAHF trophy.

one of his students had an accident. As a civilian, Newell worked at the Federal Aviation Administration. He ensured the safety of the Concorde at the supersonic jets first air show appearance at Richmond International Airport. He also looked after the safety of other visiting aircraft at the same event. Newell has served as Flight Standards District Office chief in Richmond and as a safety monitor and coordinator. By the time he retired, Newell had received recognition from Governor John Dalton for his commitment to aviation safety. Newell is a Greensboro native.

Sweeney flew DC-4s and C-109s on more than 68 round trips between China and India — over the area known as the Hump. Flying the Hump during World War II was a dangerous mission for any pilot. When the Japanese cut off the Burma Road, flying the Hump became the only way to supply China. Sweeney had to fly over the Himalayas, the world's tallest mountains. In an unarmed transport he braved bad weather, and evaded Japanese aircraft. After World War II, Sweeney supplied Berlin with coal



Van Crosby places VAHF pin on Eugene Sweeney, during the Berlin Airlift. The Berlin Airlift started in June 1948 when the Soviet Union attempted to force the U.S. and its allies out of the Western part of Berlin by cutting off land and water routes into the city. In the Korean War Sweeney served as a C-54 aircraft commander, instructor pilot and test pilot. After being discharged from the military, Sweeney flew for Transocean Airlines, Costal Cargo, and United States Airline. As Sweeney found out during his career, some dangers turn out to

be more imagined than real. On one flight, Sweeney was fooled by a trunk of an elephant into thinking that a snake was loose in his plane. During his career Sweeney has transported Reese Monkeys, horses, and pigs. He also flew Ambassador Robert D. Murphy, an American ambassador to Japan. When he retired in 1973 Sweeney had logged more than 36,000 hours in the air. Sweeney has also flown 60 different aircraft and helicopters. Sweeney is a native and resident of Roanoke.

For the past seven years, Toombs shared ownership of Shannon Airport



Al Orgain presents Billie Toombs with her VAHF trophy.

with Robert Stanley. The Fredericksburg airport is one of the busiest general aviation airports in the state. Toombs has been closely associated with the Shannon Airport all her life. She started in 1968 as a worker in the parts department and front counter. She continued working in various aspects of the airport throughout the 1970's. Toombs became manager of the Shannon Airport in 1981. Toombs managed the Shannon Airport until 1994. In 1994 she and Stanley started Aire Shannon Inc. In 1997 they purchased the Shannon Airport. Toombs has worked on fly-ins at Shannon Airport. In 1970 she became involved in the Father's Day Fly-ins. The fly-ins featured stunt pilot Bob Hoover, the Red Devils, and other aviation acts. The last Father's Day Fly-in was in 1983. The first Just Plane Fun Fly-in was held in 1990. This fly-in continued as an annual event until 1997. Toombs is a Fredericksburg native.

# Virginia Aviation Board allocates funds to Commonwealth's airports



At its bimonthly meeting held in Richmond recently, the Virginia Aviation Board (VAB) approved tentative allocations for six of the Commonwealth's airports from the Commonwealth Airport Fund, totaling \$1,180,503. Receiving one of the largest allocations was

**Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport** in the amount of \$628,000 for Environmental Assessment-Future Development, Runway 3 Safety Area (RSA) Extension – Phase 4 (construction) and Airport Obstruction Analysis. Other airports receiving allocations from the VAB were:

- **Virginia Tech-Montgomery Executive Airport** in the amount of \$9,067 for Apron Rehabilitation/Expansion (construction) - Increase;

- **Front Royal-Warren County Airport** was awarded \$8,700 for West Taxiway Extension (construction) – Increase and Airport Layout Plan (ALP) Update;

- **Stafford Regional Airport** was allocated \$4,736 for Wetlands Mitigation;

- **Hanover County Airport** was awarded \$42,000 for Terminal Building Renovation (design) and Airport Layout Plan (ALP)/Environmental Update.

- **Warrenton-Fauquier Airport**, in the amount of \$488,000 for Clear Span Hangar Site Preparation (construction);

The Virginia Aviation Board has eight members representing seven regions. The Board approves funding

requests brought to it by the Virginia Department of Aviation, a state agency working to support and promote commercial and private aviation interests for the Commonwealth's 67 public-use airports.

## Five new nonstop travel destinations tempt Richmond travelers

Since September, Richmond travelers have had the ability to book travel for five new nonstop destinations from Richmond International Airport (RIC).

It's never been easier to travel to:  
**MEMPHIS:** Twice-daily service launched by Northwest Airlines (Northwest Airlink) on September 1st.  
**ST. LOUIS:** Twice-daily departures kicked off by American Airlines affiliate American Connection on November 1st.

**FT. LAUDERDALE:** New Delta (Delta Connection) service starts December 1st.

**CANCÚN:** Apple Vacations all-inclusive packages to this popular Mexican beach destination include nonstop flights from RIC, hotel accommodations, all meals, all drinks, all tips, transfers and more. Departures from Richmond every Sunday beginning December 19th.

**FT. MYERS:** USA 3000 Airlines commences twice-weekly service to Ft. Myers on December 21st. In addition to Ft. Myers, the flights offer easy access to nearby resort areas on Sanibel and Captiva islands.

For more information on any flights out of RIC, please visit [www.flyrichmond.com](http://www.flyrichmond.com).

## Passenger Walkway To Concourse B Opens at Dulles Walkway Primary Connection to Concourse

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority has opened a new passenger walkway equipped with moving sidewalks at Washington Dulles International Airport to connect the Terminal to Concourse B.

"This walkway will give our customers a direct connection between the Terminal and Concourse B," said President/CEO James E. Bennett of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. "We know from our customers that they want an alternative to taking the mobile lounges, and we're very pleased we were able to provide it in time for the busy holiday travel period."

The walkway is now the way to get to the Concourse while the Mobile Lounges will continue to be used for Concourses A, C and D and shuttles to Concourse G. The Mobile Lounge

service to Concourse B will run less frequently. This will also make more lounges available for service to the more distant Concourses C and D.

Airlines that operate from Concourse B are: Aeroflot; Air France; Air Tran; ANA; Continental; Delta; Frontier; jetBlue; Korean Air; Lufthansa; Northwest; SAS; US Airways; and Virgin Atlantic.

Kaiser/Earth Tech Engineers, Kiewit Construction and Hensel Phelps Construction completed the \$81 million Passenger Walkway construction.

This project is part of the \$3 billion Dulles Development (d2) program that will eventually include a new runway, concourses, an Air Traffic Control Tower and an Airport Train System at the Airport by 2009.

For more information on Dulles ~~please visit~~ [www.mwaa.com](http://www.mwaa.com).



# Culpeper Regional Airport's Fifth Annual Air Fest a Success

By Tanya Woodward, CJR

On October 9<sup>th</sup> 2004, the skies over Culpeper were filled with the sounds of radial engines as the powerful WWII era planes were put on parade for our fifth annual Air Fest. The Warbirds were accompanied by the smaller aerobatic planes as well as the radio controlled model airplanes. It was a beautiful sight to behold, something for all ages. The Young Eagles Program, organized by Paul Miller, gave free flights to kids from the ages of 8 to 18. The Hardees Air Show Team gave a spectacular display of model aircraft as well as a hands on simulator which allowed one to simulate flying a model airplane. The Girl Scouts had face painting going on at their booth. The Boy Scouts sold all kinds of goodies to eat and provided the transportation from the parking area to show center. The *Wright Experience* had a flight simulator for a Wright Bros. airplane. T-shirts and hats were for sale and various information packets on learning to fly and aviation in general were available.

Around noon, a hush fell over the crowd as Emelie Thompson sang the National Anthem and the American Flag was waived at the crowd from the arms of a jumper from the Bealeton Flying Circus. Thus began two hours of jam packed aerobatic feats beautifully choreographed by Lou Ridley who served as Air Boss for the event. Charlie Schwenker, Mark McKibben, and the Split Image duo performed in lighter, fast aerobatic aircraft. Kevin Russo and Mike Schloss performed aerobatics in larger Warbird aircraft. The Bealeton Flying Circus



**Split Image pass.**



even had a wing-walker performance; yes that is when a person actually walks on the wing of a flying aircraft. Our event was a great success and it helped us showcase our newly lengthened and rehabilitated runway and apron area.

We could not have put on such a fantastic show without the help of our business community and aviation enthusiasts such as the ones listed below that donated funds or valuable time and efforts to help with our Fest.

- **Chemung Contracting Corp.**
- **Campbell & Paris Engineers**
- **Willow Run Company**
- Holiday Inn – Culpeper
- Tony Dias
- Andy Meranda
- Randy Toney
- Garry H. Setti
- Jay Johnson
- Lynn Dawson & Steve Roth
- Second Bank & Trust
- Button, Yeaman & Associates, P.C.
- Al and Nancy Aitken
- C. and C. Adams Baby Ace
- Tom Haueter
- Allan Allridge
- Donald Maziarz
- Woodson Hays – Peter Hays
- Brandy Station Volunteer Fire Department
- Culpeper County Sheriff's Department
- Our many volunteers that gave their priceless time and efforts

- **White Hawk Aviation, Inc.**
- **Wachovia**
- **John Corradi, Blue Ridge Biplane Rides**
- Frank Bossio & Jeanne Ireland
- Mike and Mary Dale
- Lou & Carolyn Ridley
- Ken & Von Egge
- Kemper Corp Realtors
- Air-Pix, Inc.
- Stacey, Tanya & Samantha Woodward
- Walt Echwald
- David Fontanella
- Richard & Susan Showalter
- Talbert & Bright, Inc.
- Culpeper Airport Line Service Techs
- Dick Roe
- Jerry W. & JoAnn G. Pendley
- Culpeper Airport Line Service Techs
- Culpeper County Emergency Services Department
- Rosson & Troilo

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US USHER IN THE NEXT CENTURY OF FLIGHT!**

(see [Culpeper](#) cont. on pg. 7)

(Culpeper cont. from pg. 6)

Also during our Air Fest, Leon Rector was named Airport Employee of the Year 2004. Leon is the second employee to be named by the customers since our program started in 2003 with Donnie Devers being our first employee to be named by the customers. Surveys are sent out to the based customers and handed out to frequent users of the airport and the votes are tallied by the Employee of the Year Subcommittee of the Airport Advisory Committee headed by Tony Dias. All Airport line service employees are eligible and we appreciate the positive response that the customers have given on choosing an employee of the year. Who will it be next year?

If you missed our show this year, be sure not to miss next year's show coming your way on October 8, 2005.

Visit us on the WEB at:

[www.culpepercounty.gov](http://www.culpepercounty.gov)

CJR, Elevation: 313'

Runway: 4-22/ 5000' x 100'

Unicom: 123.075

Phone: 540-825-8280



## Top Helicopter Manufacturer Locates Headquarters In Fairfax County

*Governor Warner announces 300 new jobs, \$2 million investment*

Gov. Mark R. Warner announced recently that AgustaWestland, Inc. and AgustaWestland Bell will relocate and consolidate their operations in Reston, creating 300 new jobs and a \$2 million investment in Fairfax County. AgustaWestland is one of the world's largest military and commercial helicopter manufacturers. Virginia successfully competed with Maryland for the project.

The company's move into the new facility is slated for January 2005. The jobs created include high technology jobs.

"We are delighted that this global business leader has chosen Fairfax County for its new corporate headquarters facility," said Governor Warner. "The county's close proximity to the Department of Defense, its

highly skilled workforce and Northern Virginia's premier business climate will guarantee continued success for AgustaWestland."

AgustaWestland Inc. is the U.S. subsidiary of AgustaWestland, a Finmeccanica company, while AgustaWestlandBell is a joint venture of AgustaWestland and Bell Helicopter Textron. AgustaWestlandBell has teamed up with Lockheed Martin for the US101 helicopter program. The US101 currently is competing for the contract to replace the "Marine One" fleet of helicopters used by the President of the United States.

AgustaWestland brings together two great names in the history of helicopter design and manufacture with both Agusta <[http://www.agusta.com/comhi\\_e.htm](http://www.agusta.com/comhi_e.htm)> and Westland <[http://www.whl.co.uk/whl\\_hist.html](http://www.whl.co.uk/whl_hist.html)> each having entered

the helicopter industry over 50 years ago. Agusta's and Westland's pedigree as helicopter manufacturers dates back to the 1950s when both companies made strategic decisions to move into rotary wing aircraft production. Agusta and Westland first collaborated in the 1960s, and evolved for more than 20 years, including collaboration on the development and production of the 17-ton multi-role EH101, the largest European helicopter program ever undertaken. This association provided the platform that enabled the two companies to conclude a rapid and effective integration when Finmeccanica S.p.A. of Italy and GKN plc of the UK signed the

agreement on the formation of a joint venture company in 2000.

"By expanding our presence near our key

government decision makers, AgustaWestland will be better able to meet the needs of our customers," said Stephen C. Moss, President of AgustaWestland Inc. "This proximity will help us continue to anticipate the needs of the market and better position us for future success."

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership and the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority assisted AgustaWestland with its decision to headquarter in Reston.

"Fairfax County's location near the nation's capital and its highly skilled and educated work force make it a perfect place for AgustaWestland to land," said Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. "The company will be a great addition to our aviation and aerospace industry sector."



## VAOC Annual Maintenance Workshop Held

The Virginia Airport Operators Council (VAOC) and Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV) recently hosted the annual VAOC Maintenance Workshop held at Chesterfield County Airport. The two-day workshop is held for airport managers/employees and sponsors each year to bring them up to speed concerning new procedures, equipment and programs that help foster maintenance at Virginia's



John Pinson of Sherwin Industries, Inc., shows off the Super Shot Melter, a crack sealing melter.



airports.

This year's workshop focused on asphalt pavement repair, ditch & storm sewer maintenance, erosion control, wildlife control, vegetation control, soil & rock identification and uses, airfield circuit trouble shooting, spill/HAZMAT cleanup, and navigational maintenance.

## Governor Warner Initiates *Healthy Virginians* Program

Governor Warner recently launched the *Healthy Virginians* program. It is designed to promote healthy lifestyle choices that will equip Virginians with the tools needed to live a high quality life. The Department of Aviation (DOAV), along with thousands of other state employees have already made the commitment to

becoming healthier through your involvement in various CommonHealth programs such as weight management, diabetes education, and smoking cessation. *Healthy Virginians* will also promote healthier lifestyles among school children as well as those who receive Medicaid coverage.



The DOAV joined Governor Warner at the kick-off walk that was held recently.



If you are interested in learning more about what is going on in the Department of Aviation, please call our office at (804) 236-3624 or our Sponsor Hotline at (800) 292-1034. Visit our website for updates on future events at: [www.doav.virginia.gov](http://www.doav.virginia.gov).



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